

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 752

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Buford Michael "Mike" Helton of Gatlinburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Buford Michael "Mike" Helton; and

WHEREAS, Mike Helton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in the Walden's Creek community, Mr. Helton was the son of Buford and Bobbie Kyte Helton; he was a graduate of Tennessee Technological University and Lincoln Memorial University; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Sevier County, Mike Helton worked for the Sevier County school system for more than forty years as a teacher, coach, and district supervisor; he began teaching biology and coaching football and soccer at Gatlinburg-Pittman High School in 1976 and later became an instructional supervisor with the school system in 1995. In 2017, he partially retired, serving as the teacher certification officer and the safe schools project director on a part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, a devoted public servant, Mr. Helton was a member of the Gatlinburg City Commission for seventeen years, and he served five terms as vice mayor and four terms as mayor; he represented the citizens of the community he loved until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Mike Helton was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church Gatlinburg, which he served faithfully for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Helton was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mike Helton enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty years, Patti Whitehead Helton; he was the proud father of Whit Helton and Hannah Helton, the devoted grandfather of John Tate and Erin Tate, and the beloved son of Bobbie Helton; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his father and his parents-in-law, Billie Whitehead and J.T. Whitehead, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mike Helton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Buford Michael "Mike" Helton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Helton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.